



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

BOROUGH OF POOLE,

UNDER THE

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY AND THE POOLE
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1906.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE URBAN AND PORT
SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

GEORGE H. CARRINGTON,

M.R.C.S. (England), L.S.A. (London), D.P.H. (Honours), R.C.P.S.I.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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To the Poole Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my first annual report of the health of the enlarged Borough of Poole, comprising the parishes of St. James', Parkstone, Longfleet, Hamworthy and Branksome for the year ending December 31st, 1906.

The area of the Borough is now 7,923 acres (not including 2,200 acres of tidal water and foreshore), distributed amongst the different parishes as follows :—

	ACRES.
Parish of St. James	- 153
„ Longfleet	- 1265
„ Parkstone	- 2838
„ Hamworthy	- 1077
„ Branksome	- 2590
	<hr/>
	7923

Borough of Poole (less inland water) 7852 acres.

The number of houses and the population of the Borough at the census of 1901 were as follows :—

	No. of Houses.	Population.
St. James'	- 1031	7670
Longfleet	- 915	4159
Parkstone	- 1338	6550
Hamworthy	- 242	1084
Branksome	- 2170	8095
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TOTAL	- 5696	27558

Average number of persons per house 4·8.

Number of inhabited houses 5,696.

POPULATION.—Assuming that the rate of increase continues, as it has done during the last ten years, I estimate the population of the Borough to be 32,000 to the middle of the year 1906

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered during the year was 961—477 males and 484 females—including 25 illegitimate births. The birth-rate was 30 per 1000, much higher than last year. Natural increase in population, that is, the excess of births over deaths during the year, 476. In Poole and Branksome in 1905 the natural increase was 403.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 485—244 males and 241 females. The death rate was 15·1 per 1,000, or the corrected death rate, after deducting twelve deaths of non-residents occurring in the district, 14·7; average age at death 40 years. Total deaths in Poole and Branksome in 1905, 444—212 males and 232 females. Comparing the number of births and deaths with that of 1905 there was an increase of 104 births and 41 deaths in 1906.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were 114 deaths of children under one year of age, which gave an infantile death-rate of 118·6 per 1000 registered births—nearly the same rate as in 1905.

Between 1 year and 5 years there were 40 deaths.

„	5 years	15	„	„	17	„
„	15	„	25	„	„	24
„	25	„	65	„	„	137
65 years and upwards	-	-	-	-	153	„

In 1905 in Poole and Branksome there were 96 deaths under one year. The increase in 1906 is principally due to deaths from measles, whooping cough and diarrhœa.

The various parishes and hospitals were credited with the following number of deaths :—

			1906.	1905.
Poole (St. James')	-	-	113	128
Parkstone	-	-	112	103
Longfleet	-	-	45	57
Hamworthy	-	-	14	11
Branksome	-	-	142	100
Poole Harbour	-	-	2	2
Alderney Fever Hospital	-	-	2	2
Cornelia and Union Hospitals	-	-	55	41
TOTAL			485	444

MONTHLY RETURNS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	50	38	88	19	20	39
February	35	38	73	27	22	49
March	27	37	64	19	19	38
April	26	42	68	25	26	51
May	47	49	96	22	17	39
June	39	31	70	14	20	34
July	42	40	82	14	12	26
August	45	42	87	16	13	29
September	39	39	78	29	15	44
October	46	39	85	20	25	45
November	42	44	86	11	25	36
December	39	45	84	28	27	55
	477	484	961	244	241	485

The causes of the deaths registered are tabulated in Tables IV. and V.

The following table shews the birth-rates, death-rates, zymotic death-rates and infantile death-rates of England and Wales in 1906, and the corresponding rates for the Borough of Poole :—

	<i>Annual Rates per 1000 living.</i>			<i>Infantile Mortality. Annual Death-Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births.</i>
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths from all causes.</i>	<i>Deaths from seven chief Zymotic Diseases.</i>	
England and Wales ..	27·0	15·4	1·73	133
76 great Towns ..	27·9	16·0	2·24	146
142 smaller Towns ..	26·5	14·4	1·70	138
England and Wales, less the 218 towns ..	26·3	15·0	1·18	115
Borough of Poole ..	30·0	14·7	1·31	118·6

The Zymotic death-rate is calculated upon deaths from the seven chief Zymotic diseases, viz., small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria and membranous croup, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric and other continued), and diarrhœa. During 1906 fourteen deaths were registered from measles, nine from diphtheria, eight from whooping cough, one from enteric or typhoid fever, and ten from diarrhœa. The Zymotic death-rate was 1·31 per 1000.

PHTHISIS caused 41 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·28 per 1000. Other tubercular diseases caused 13 deaths.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES other than Phthisis caused 73 deaths, giving a death-rate of 2·27. In these are included 22 deaths from pneumonia, 38 from bronchitis, two from pleurisy, and eleven from congestion of lungs. Cancer caused 36 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·12 per 1000.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The diseases that must be notified as soon as possible to the Sanitary authority under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act are small-pox, cholera, diphtheria or membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, enteric, relapsing and continued fevers, puerperal fever, and plague.

The total number of notifications received during 1906 was 106, comprising 33 of diphtheria, 19 of erysipelas, 27 of scarlet fever and 27 cases of typhoid fever. In 1905 the number was 121.

The ages of the cases notified, and the districts where they occurred, as well as the removals to the Infectious Hospitals, are shewn in Table III.

The following table shews the monthly distribution of Infectious cases in the different parishes of the Borough:—

MONTH.	LOCALITY.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	TOTAL.
January ..	Poole ..	..	..	..	4	4
February ..	Poole ..	..	..	I	8	9
March ..	Hamworthy ..	..	..	I	..	I } 10
..	Poole ..	..	..	I	..	I } 4
..	Branksome ..	..	2	..	..	2 } 4
April ..	Longfleet ..	..	..	I	..	I } 9
..	Poole ..	I	..	I	..	2 } 9
..	Branksome ..	4	..	..	..	4 } 9
..	Parkstone ..	..	I	..	..	I } 9
..	Longfleet ..	..	..	2	..	2 } 10
May ..	Poole ..	I	..	I	I	3 } 10
..	Branksome ..	..	3	I	..	4 } 10
..	Parkstone ..	I	..	..	..	I } 10
..	Longfleet ..	I	..	..	I	2 } 8
June ..	Branksome ..	4	I	..	..	5 } 8
..	Longfleet ..	..	..	I	I	2 } 8
..	Parkstone ..	..	I	..	..	I } 4
July ..	Poole ..	..	I	..	..	I } 4
..	Branksome ..	..	I	..	..	I } 4
..	Parkstone ..	I	I	..	..	2 } 6
August ..	Branksome ..	..	I	..	..	I } 6
..	Parkstone ..	I	2	..	..	3 } 6
..	Longfleet ..	..	..	2	..	2 } 4
September ..	Branksome ..	..	2	..	..	2 } 4
..	Parkstone ..	..	I	I	..	2 } 4
October ..	Poole ..	..	2	2	3	7 } 20
..	Branksome ..	3	4	..	I	8 } 20
..	Parkstone ..	I	..	I	..	2 } 26
..	Longfleet ..	I	I	I	..	3 } 26
November ..	Poole ..	2	2	I	3	8 } 26
..	Branksome ..	4	5	..	I	10 } 26
..	Parkstone ..	I	2	..	2	5 } 26
..	Longfleet ..	I	..	I	..	2 } 26
December ..	Hamworthy ..	..	..	..	I	I } 1
..	Poole ..	..	..	..	I	I } 1
Total ..		27	33	19	27	106
POOLE ..		4	5	7	20	36
PARKSTONE ..		5	8	2	2	17
LONGFLEET ..		3	I	8	2	14
BRANKSOME ..		15	19	I	2	37
HAMWORTHY ..		..	..	I	I	2
Total ..		27	33	19	27	106

SCARLET FEVER.—27 cases were notified, four in Poole, five in Parkstone, three in Longfleet and fifteen in Branksome. No case was notified till April, when one in Poole and four in Branksome were sent to Alderney Hospital. The four cases occurred in one house, and were traceable to infection at Blandford, where they had been for an holiday. One case from Branksome in June was placed in an observation ward, and was found not to be scarlet fever. In October and November cases of scarlet fever occurred at the Westbourne School, which is attended by children from this Borough. Seven cases were notified amongst children who attended this school, or who had been in contact with those who did. The cases were very slight, and no fatal cases occurred. A case notified as scarlet fever, from Parkstone, admitted to hospital, was found not to be scarlet fever.

ERYSIPELAS.—Nineteen cases were notified, mostly of a slight character—one severe case from Parkstone was admitted to Alderney Hospital; no fatal cases.

DIPHTHERIA.—Thirty-three cases were notified, of which five were in Poole, eight in Parkstone, one in Longfleet, and nineteen in Branksome. Of these five cases from Parkstone and fourteen from Branksome were admitted to the Alderney Hospital. Two cases occurring in Branksome Park got the infection in Jersey. Throat swabs were sent for bacteriological examination in all cases. In one case admitted to hospital from Parkstone the bacillus of diphtheria was not found. Diphtheria antitoxin was used in all cases admitted to the hospital. In the majority of cases admitted under my care, I gave the antitoxin by the mouth, and obtained the same beneficial results as if used by the hypodermic syringe. I found the children liked it much better given that way. Two fatal cases occurred in hospital, both children, who were admitted in a moribund state. One of these cases was wheeled to the hospital, a distance of two miles, in an open bassinette. Dr. Alexander reported the case to the Council, who reprimanded the parents for contravening the law, which states that no case of infectious disease must be exposed in the public thoroughfares. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, provides penalties in cases of exposure of infected persons and things, and these should be enforced in any case coming to the knowledge of the Sanitary Authority. The fact that all the cases, five in number, which have been moved in former years to the hospital in the same manner, and have all proved fatal, should be a warning to parents to use the ambulance provided by the Council. Seven cases, nursed at home, and too ill to be moved to hospital, died. Defective drains, found in some of the houses, were remedied.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Twenty-seven cases were notified, twenty occurred in Poole, two in Parkstone, two in Longfleet, one in Hamworthy, and two in Branksome. Most of the cases were of a

very slight character, the only fatal case being that of a young woman, an inmate of the Cornelia Hospital, who had suffered from abdominal disease for some years. Twelve cases were notified in Poole in January and February. Most of the cases were confined to a small area, three in one house at the bottom of High Street, three in Strand Street, two in Blue Boar Lane and two in Lagland Street. There was no history of eating oysters, and no serious defects in the drainage. There is no doubt several of the cases occurred through personal contact. The infectivity of typhoid fever is underrated. When patients are nursed at home by relatives who do not appreciate the full importance of the necessary precautions, it is rather the rule than the exception for them to fall victims to its infection. The fact that typhoid fever is a most difficult disease to diagnose owing to its long incubation period, which is generally about a fortnight to three weeks, and that the preliminary symptoms are often slight, and put down to an attack of influenza or biliousness, makes personal contagion very easy. Most people believe that the fæces are the only means of spread of enteric fever, and the only part to be disinfected, but the typhoid bacillus is found in large quantities in the urine. Professor Horton Smith found as many as 500 million bacilli in one cubic centimetre of urine. Nurses who have to empty bedpans should well scrub their hands and finger nails immediately afterwards. Four of these cases were admitted to the Baiter Hospital; one of the cases, a girl, on bacteriological examination proved not to be typhoid. A man was admitted to Alderney Hospital in May, he had used water for drinking purposes from a brook which flows from the Cemetery through fields past his house, and was open to every kind of pollution. In June, a case notified as typhoid, at Longfleet, and removed to the Cornelia Hospital, turned out to be pneumonia. In October two cases were admitted to hospital from Fish Street and Strand Street. In one the only cause known was the eating of whelks at Woodbury Hill Fair, the other man had just returned from a yacht cruise, and his illness commenced after emptying stinking bilge water. In November two cases were removed to Alderney Hospital, living next door to one another. One had eaten Poole oysters, the other had not. There was a combined drainage to the two houses, and several defects were found. One of these cases developed mania, and had to be removed to the Baiter Hospital, which had been closed since March. A woman from Hill Street, who had been helping in washing the clothes from the Cornelia Hospital, and a man from Fish Street, were also admitted to Baiter Hospital—in neither case had oysters been partaken of. Only three cases out of the 27 had eaten Poole oysters. I advised your Council in September to issue a notice at the beginning of the oyster season, warning persons not to eat uncooked shell fish (oysters, cockles, mussels); this notice was posted about the Borough. Last year in 17 cases of typhoid fever out of 39 reported, oysters had been eaten. Taking into consideration the thousands of oysters dredged every week from the deep waters of Poole Harbour, and sold in Poole

and neighbourhood, in my opinion, the eating of freshly caught oysters as the sole cause of many cases of typhoid fever, is not conclusive. If the oysters are at fault, it is that they have become stale. The following is the notice which was issued to the public in October :—

“I am instructed by the Town Council to again issue a warning to the inhabitants of the Borough of the danger of contracting typhoid fever, diarrhœa, etc., through the eating of *uncooked* shell fish (oysters, cockles, and mussels). Cockles, mussels and oysters should have their shells firmly closed when taken out of water, and if in water the open shell should close when touched. When a marked proportion of the shells show a tendency to gape, and the shells of others are easily separated, the batch should be considered as unsound and unfit for food.”

MEASLES.—An outbreak occurred in July amongst the children attending Longfleet schools. This epidemic is traceable to the temperance fête in Poole Park, which was attended by children from other towns in Dorset where measles were prevalent. The infection gradually spread all over the Borough, the greatest number of cases occurring in Poole St. James and Hamworthy. I advised the closing of the British Infants, Hamworthy Infants, St. James' Infants and Catholic Schools from November till after the Christmas holidays. Fourteen deaths from measles were reported, seven under one year of age and seven between one year and five years. Seven of these occurred in Poole St. James, one in Parkstone, one in Hamworthy and five in Branksome. The epidemic was associated with mumps and whooping cough.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Eight deaths were registered, four under one year of age, and four between one year and five years. One death occurred in Parkstone, one in Hamworthy, and six in Branksome.

The common notion that measles and whooping cough are comparatively harmless infantile complaints will be dissipated when it is seen that 22 out of the 42 deaths from zymotic diseases were due to these two diseases. More children are attacked with measles under the age of five than at any other age, and the greatest number between the ages of two and four years of age. The greatest fatality is in the second year of life, when it may be 24 per cent. of those attacked, as compared with between 2 and 3 per cent. in the fourth year of life. These facts explain the folly of parents allowing children to run the risk of catching an infectious complaint when another child in the house is attacked, “to have it over at one trouble.” Every year that a child's attack can be delayed increases his chance of recovery if he is subsequently attacked, and diminishes the likelihood of being attacked.

DIARRHŒA accounted for ten deaths, eight of which were children under one year of age, one between one and five years, and one over 65 years. The summer was a very hot and dry one, and milk, the chief food of infants, quickly became sour, unless boiled. It has been proved that the summer rise of diarrhœal mortality does not commence until the mean temperature recorded by the 4-foot earth thermometer has attained 56° Fah., no matter what may have been the previous temperature of the atmosphere. The fundamental conditions favouring epidemic diarrhœa is an unclean soil, the particular poison from which infects the air, and is swallowed most commonly with food, especially milk. Decomposing refuse, such as decaying vegetables, bones, fish, etc., is a fertile source of diarrhœa. This should be burnt, and not placed in the dust bin.

PHTHISIS.—Forty-one deaths were registered in the district from Phthisis, and thirteen from other tubercular diseases. Consumption and other consumptive diseases, which may be classed under the name tuberculosis, cause more deaths than all the acute infectious diseases put together. Consumption is to a limited extent an infectious disease caused by the tubercle bacillus. It is spread chiefly by inhaling the expectoration of patients which has been allowed to become dry and float about the room as dust. All expectoration of patients should be received into small paper bags or handkerchiefs, which can be burnt before it becomes dry. Cleansing of rooms with a wet cloth should be substituted for dusting and sweeping. Sunlight and fresh air are the greatest enemies of infection. Tubercle bacilli exposed to sunlight are rendered innocuous. Voluntary notification of cases to the Medical Officer of Health is already practised in many towns. Notification gives increased opportunities of preventing phthisis by (1) enabling disinfection and cleansing of affected rooms to be done; (2) enabling instructions to be given to the patient and his relatives as to the exact precautions required; and (3) facilitating the removal of the unsanitary conditions of home and work which may have caused the disease. Gaseous disinfection of rooms is inefficient: in order to remove and destroy the dried infective discharges the disinfectant must be applied directly to the infected surfaces of the room by washing or spraying. During the year several rooms have been disinfected by your Sanitary officials when notified.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.—The Borough, since the amalgamation with Branksome, now possesses two isolation hospitals—the Baiter Hospital at Poole, and the Alderney Hospital at Newtown.

BAITER HOSPITAL.—Four cases of typhoid fever were admitted in February and discharged March 19th. The hospital was then closed, owing to the resignation of Nurse Budden on account of ill-health. She had been matron many years, and during the whole of that time devoted her energies to her work, and her skill in nursing infectious cases will long be remembered by the many patients who were under her care.

In November the hospital was reopened—a typhoid patient at the Alderney Hospital developed mania, and interfering with the comfort of the other inmates, was removed to Baiter Hospital. One case of typhoid, a female, complicated with congestion of the lungs, was admitted in November; and one, a male, typhoid, complicated with pneumonia, in December. The nursing was again undertaken by Nurse Kane, of Bournemouth, whom I must thank for the efficient manner she carried out her duties.

ALDERNEY HOSPITAL.—Forty-three cases were admitted from the Borough, two from the Poole Rural District, and five cases from outside the district (four from Wimborne and one from Kimmeridge).

Of the 43 cases, 20 were admitted as diphtheria, 17 of scarlet fever, five of typhoid fever and one erysipelas. The two from the Poole Rural District were scarlet fever, the four from Wimborne diphtheria, and the one from Kimmeridge (a visitor) scarlet fever. Two deaths occurred, a boy aged four years, from Curtis Road, and a boy aged eight years, from York Road. Both were suffering from diphtheria, and were in a moribund condition when admitted. Dr. Alexander, late Medical Officer of Health to the Branksome Council, attended the Branksome cases until the termination of his appointment in October. I was appointed by your Council to attend the cases admitted from the other parts of the Borough in May, and after October took charge of all cases admitted.

The matron, Mrs. Nippard, has carried out her arduous duties to my entire satisfaction, and is most indefatigable in the performance of her work. In June Mrs. White was appointed assistant nurse, and has given satisfaction to the matron and myself. The five patients outside the district paid £20 7s. 6d. for maintenance. This amount has been paid to the treasurer.

A new bath-room has been provided. This is a great convenience, and will help to keep the patients suffering from different diseases coming into contact with each other.

I recommended to your Council in June that a new ward should be built to accommodate eight or twelve patients, with nurse's rooms, etc. This ward could be used as a typhoid fever block, and at other times as an observation ward. Suspicious cases are sometimes notified, and removed to hospital, and after admission are found on bacteriological examination not to be infectious cases. Observation Wards are always added to the newest types of isolation hospitals. As shewing the necessity of such Wards, three cases were admitted, one as scarlet fever and two as diphtheria to this hospital during the year, which were found not to be so. When there is room the new cases are placed in wards by themselves, as these cases were. When the wards are all occupied, these cases take the chance of becoming infected, and if they do not, have to be isolated, kept for a longer time in hospital, and add to the expense. Your Council

instructed the Borough Surveyor to draw up plans, so this much-needed addition will soon be built.

CORNELIA HOSPITAL.—Six cases of typhoid fever were admitted to this Hospital during the year: one proved fatal. Our best thanks are due to the medical and nursing staff for the efficient manner in which the cases were looked after.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Borough is mostly supplied by the Poole Waterworks Company, part of the Branksome District is supplied by the Bournemouth Water Company. The supply has been constant, but during the year I have received complaints of the discolouration and rusty-red deposit found after drawing from the taps and allowing the water to stand. This renders it, without further filtration, unfit for cooking and drinking purposes. The Bournemouth water has now been softened, and is of good quality. There are still a few wells at Newtown and Rossmoor. During the year your Council decided to purchase the Poole Waterworks Company's works, so that the inhabitants might be supplied with a water of the purest quality.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE AND EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—All the houses in Poole are now connected with the public sewer, and the system of sewerage has acted well throughout the year. In Hamworthy earth closets are used—these are emptied regularly by a contractor. The Local Government Board have given permission for the Branksome sewers to be connected with the Poole system, so that very soon house connections will be made, and the numerous cesspools done away with. Many complaints have been received of overflowing cesspools—these have been attended to immediately.

Mr. Newman, Borough Surveyor, has supplied me with the following details as to sewerage and new buildings:—

During the year 1906 the following lengths of new sewers have been constructed:

Sewerage—By the Authority—864 yards of soil sewer.

1776 yards of surface water sewer.

By owners when forming new roads—

895 yards of soil sewer.

373 yards of surface water sewer.

New Buildings—New buildings for the year are as follows:—

Dwelling houses, 478; other buildings, 41; minor erections, 92.

The work done by the Sanitary officials *re* Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Slaughter Houses, Common Lodging Houses, Bakehouses, Housing of the Working Classes and Factory Acts is contained in the report of Mr. R. Smith, Chief Sanitary Inspector. The

sanitary condition of most of these has much improved during the year; several of the cowsheds in the Branksome district had not been whitewashed for years, had no means of lighting except the door, and the cubic space was too small for the number of cows kept. When the cows lay in, in the bad weather, they ought to be regularly groomed, as their flanks, haunches, abdomen, udders and tails become plastered with filth. There should be daily grooming, and the udder and flanks, where the milker's head generally rests, should be sponged before each milking. The milkers themselves should wash their hands before milking, and should wear white overalls and caps. The pails and strainers should be well scalded before and after use. To prevent the germs which are always present in milk multiplying, the milk should be immediately cooled to 40 degrees. No milker should be allowed to dip his fingers in the milk, as the custom is, to make the process of milking easier.

I beg to call your attention to the following summary and practical conclusions of the recently published report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis :—

The Commissioners summarize the bearings of the results at which they have already arrived as follows :

“ There can be no doubt but that in a certain number of cases the tuberculosis occurring in the human subject, especially in children, is the direct result of the introduction into the human body of the bacillus of bovine tuberculosis ; and there also can be no doubt that in the majority at least of these cases the bacillus is introduced through cows' milk. Cows' milk containing bovine tubercle bacilli is clearly a cause of tuberculosis and of fatal tuberculosis in man.

“ Of the 60 cases of human tuberculosis investigated by us, 14 of the viruses belonged to Group I—that is to say, contained the bovine bacillus. If, instead of taking all these 60 cases, we confine ourselves to cases of tuberculosis in which the bacilli were apparently introduced into the body by way of the alimentary canal, the proportion of Group I becomes very much larger. Of the total 60 cases investigated by us, 28 possessed clinical histories, indicating that in them the bacillus was introduced through the alimentary canal. Of these, 13 belong to group I. Of the 9 cases in which cervical glands were studied by us, 3, and of the 19 cases in which the lesions of abdominal tuberculosis were studied by us, 10 belong to Group I.

“ These facts indicate that a very large proportion of tuberculosis contracted by ingestion is due to bacilli of bovine source.

“ A very considerable amount of disease and loss of life, especially among the young, must be attributed to the consumption of cows' milk containing tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli in cows' milk can be detected, though with some difficulty, if the proper means be adopted, and such milk never ought to be used as food. There is far less difficulty in recognising clinically that a cow is distinctly suffering from tuberculosis, in which case she may

be yielding tuberculous milk. The milk coming from such a cow ought not to form part of human food, and, indeed, ought not to be used as food at all.

“Our results clearly point to the necessity of measures more stringent than those at present enforced being taken to prevent the sale or the consumption of such milk.”

At the meeting of the International Congress on Tuberculosis held in London in 1901, Professor Koch made the announcement that human and bovine tubercle bacilli are different in kind, and that the likelihood of the infection of human beings with bovine bacilli might be regarded as very slight. By the thorough investigations of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, this statement has now been proved to be untrue.

It is therefore the duty of all Sanitary Authorities to see that the cows are kept in a healthy state. This can only be done by farmers keeping the cows themselves and the cow-houses in a clean state. Plenty of cubic space should be allowed for each cow. The cowsheds should be well lighted and ventilated. The old notion that cows could keep healthy in any old, dark shed, must be put on one side, as fresh air and sunlight are the greatest enemies of tubercle bacilli.

At my next half-yearly inspections, the cleanliness of the cows themselves, as well as the cowsheds, will be noted. Many of the cows, although out to grass a good portion of the year, are kept in a very dirty condition.

ALLEGED GAS NUISANCE AT BRANKSOME.—Complaints have been made to the late Branksome Council of a very disagreeable smell coming from the Gas Works for many years. Dr. Alexander, the late Medical Officer of Health for Branksome, published a most comprehensive report in his Annual Report for 1905. Since January, 1906, I have received a series of complaints from about six residents, of a smell, generally in the early hours of the night, and occurring at various intervals of time. The wind must be in a northerly direction for the smell to affect the complainants. I have received no complaints from other residents when the wind has been in other directions. At the end of January, the Local Government Board, at the request of the aggrieved residents, sent down one of their Medical Inspectors, Dr. Reece, who made extensive enquiries for nearly a week. No report has been received from him yet. The Inspector and myself have paid numerous visits to the neighbourhood and the gas works at all hours of the day and night, but can find no other cause for the smells, than, that of one of the purifiers being emptied. When I visited the Gas Works with Dr. Reece and Mr. Newman, the Borough Surveyor, on a very wet day, wind westerly, there was no remarked offensive smell. On testing for sulphuretted hydrogen in the water gas plant,

there was no trace. On March 22nd, I visited Princess Road and Surrey Road, wind north-east, and observed slight smell. On visiting Gas Works, found one of the purifiers had been emptied, and the contents were being spread on the ground to oxidise. Strong sulphury smell. On August 13th, visited works, and found no gas or water-gas has been manufactured there for months. In December, several complaints were received from the same residents. Enquiries were made, and it was again found a purifier had been emptied.

COMPLAINTS AT POOLE.—In July a memorial from residents near the Poole Gas Works was received, and a sub-Committee appointed by your Council to confer with the Manager of the Company and to visit the Works. The complaints were the stinking smell and the excessive noise at night, also the smell when the purifiers behind the Free Library were opened. In October the purifiers were discontinued, the gas now being purified at Bourne Valley. A high wall has been built opposite the houses, and leaks in the new brick-work of a purifier repaired. No serious complaints have been received for some time. I have received reports from other towns, and find that complaints are received about smells, but in most cases the Gas Works are situated a long distance from the residential portion.

My thanks are due to Mr. Woodall, Manager, and Mr. Green, for giving me permission at any time to visit the Works, and to inspect the books as to the various processes going on. Every facility has been given by them in our enquiries.

SMOKE NUISANCE AT BRANKSOME.—The same residents in Princess Road who complain of the gas smell also complain of excessive smoke from the engine shed. This belongs to the Somerset and Dorset Railway. The engines fire-up here. Many observations have been made by the Inspectors, but no great excess has been observed. Letters have been written to the Locomotive Superintendent, who has promised to do all in his power to minimise the complaint.

PIGS-STYS.—The pig-keepers are mostly in the Newtown district. Visits have been paid by the Inspector and myself. Except in wet weather there have been no complaints. It is a coincidence that no infectious cases have been reported in Newtown.

DISINFECTION.—The Committee appointed by your Council postponed the erection of a steam disinfecter. Now that there is an increased area, and consequently more infectious cases, I desire to again call your attention to the need of one.

In conformity with the regulations of the Local Government Board, I have made frequent inspections of the various parts of the Borough. With the Inspector I have visited all the bake-houses,

slaughter-houses, cowsheds, lodging-houses, and many of the laundries and workshops. Many visits have been paid to the Gas Works and Electric Light Works, and in connection with the smoke-nuisance from the engine shed at Branksome.

I have to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered me by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. Smith, Jun., and the Assistant-Inspector Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Smith is to be congratulated on obtaining the diploma of Inspector of Meat and other Foods, after examination at the Royal Sanitary Institute.

I have to again congratulate your Council that the birth-rate of the Borough of Poole is higher, the death-rate, zymotic death-rate and infantile death-rate are all much lower than those of the whole of England and Wales.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CARRINGTON, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total number of DEATHS				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions.	
		No.	Rate*	Under 1 year		At all ages			
				No.	Rate*	No.	Rate*		
Poole before Anaigamu- tion with Branksome.	1896	17438	550	31.54	64	116	260	14.90	30
	1897	17826	511	28.66	63	123	277	15.53	25
	1898	18214	526	28.76	76	145	278	15.31	32
	1899	18602	509	27.36	90	173	325	17.47	43
	1900	18990	526	27.69	69	131	292	15.37	32
	1901	19588	538	27.46	50	92	273	13.93	38
	1902	20095	537	26.72	59	109.8	331	16.41	32
	1903	20500	555	27.07	75	135.3	330	16.09	36
	1904	21000	569	27.09	62	109	364	17.03	52
	1905	21800	582	26.69	66	113	343	15.73	41
Averages for years 1896—1905		19405	540	27.90	67	124	307	15.9	36
† 1906	32000	961	30.0	114	118.6	485	15.1	55	

* Rates calculated at per 1,000 of estimated population.

† Enlarged Borough of Poole.

Sanitary Department,
January 25th, 1907.

To the Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of Poole.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report of the Sanitary work executed during the year 1906.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—There are 246 workshops and workplaces and 79 domestic workshops registered in the Borough. These have been inspected half-yearly for the purpose of detecting nuisances arising from overcrowding, want of cleanliness, &c. They are found generally to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Two cases of overcrowding, seven cases of uncleanness, and five cases of other nuisances were dealt with and remedied.

Twenty notices have been sent to H. M. Inspector of Factories with reference to persons failing to affix the abstract of the Act in the workshops.

BAKEHOUSES.—Forty-one bakehouses are registered; these have been inspected half-yearly and found generally to be kept in fairly good order, excepting that the white-washing is not always done at the specified period. One has been closed during the year and one new place opened.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are 15 of these registered in the Borough. They have been inspected frequently. The lime-washing is done quarterly.

In one place the drainage was found to be unsatisfactory; the owners agreed to remedy the defects, but up to the present the work is not carried out.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Thirty-seven cowsheds are registered. These also have been inspected half-yearly. Some of these have not been lime-washed regularly during the past year. The attention of the cow keepers have been called to the regulations in force in the Borough. In nine instances overcrowding of cows existed: notice has been served on the occupiers to provide more accommodation for the cattle. This work has been commenced and will probably be completed shortly.

Besides these there are 47 Milkshops registered.

The Medical Officer of Health accompanied the Inspector on many of the visits.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.—A systematic house to house inspection has been commenced: various defects in Sanitary arrangements has been noted and dealt with. The owner or occupier have had written notice to remedy these defects, which they have since carried out in a satisfactory manner.

DISINFECTION.—Premises in which infectious disease occurred have been disinfected in the ordinary way chiefly with formalin lamp, and in several other instances where other diseases has occurred.

SANITARY CERTIFICATES.—We have received £26 5s. during the year for the inspection of 25 houses in various parts of the district; these have been reported on and the defects found consisted of leaky drains, defective ventilating shafts, untrapped and defective sinks, untrapped baths and lavatory basins, &c. In most cases these works were executed in a satisfactory way and certificates granted.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—Under this Act 95 samples have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst, viz.:—Milk 57, Butter 18, Jam 6, Lard 4, Bread 2, Demerara Sugar 2, Cheese 2, Cream 1, Tea 1, Vinegar 1, Coffee 1. The Analyst certified these samples to be genuine with the exception of two samples of Milk which were adulterated.

The vendors were prosecuted and fined 5/- and costs in each case. Fifty-five samples of milk contained more than 3% of fat, the standard laid down by the Local Government Board.

UNSOUND MEAT.—On eight occasions unsound food was seized and condemned as unfit for the food of man, as follows, and on one occasion a diseased liver was destroyed. Seventy-one boxes of Bloaters, 2 boxes of Mackerel, 1 piece of Veal, 1 Pig, 30 Mackerel, 2 boxes of Mackerel, 1 lot of Plaice and 1 of Haddock.

DISEASE OF ANIMALS ACTS.—Under this Act three cases of suspected swine fever were reported and two cases of suspected glanders; these were reported to the Board of Agriculture, and the necessary notices served on the owners of the animals. The Inspector from the Board declared the suspected pigs not to have suffered with swine fever, and the premises were afterwards declared free.

In one case a pony was declared to be suffering from glanders by the Borough Veterinary Surgeon (J. S. Wood, Esq.) and reported to the Committee on the 3rd December. This animal was destroyed by their order, and the premises disinfected and lime-washed in accordance with the Glanders and Farcy Order, 1894.

CESSPOOLS.—The cesspools emptied in Branksome in

1906	-	2276
1905	-	1935
		<hr/>
Increase	-	341
		<hr/>

During the year the emptied cesspools have been gauged at frequent intervals with the result that the average amount of liquid

and thick sediment left in them was 8·7 inches, which the pump would not remove.

The work was carried out in a satisfactory manner.

193	cesspools were emptied once	...	...	...	193
141	" " twice	...	...	...	282
66	" " 3 times	...	...	...	198
54	" " 4 "	...	...	...	216
36	" " 5 "	...	...	...	180
26	" " 6 "	...	...	...	156
33	" " 7 "	...	...	...	231
11	" " 8 "	...	...	...	88
6	" " 9 "	...	...	...	54
10	" " 10 "	...	...	...	100
15	" " 11 "	...	...	...	165
10	" " 12 "	...	...	...	120
4	" " 13 "	...	...	...	52
3	" " 14 "	...	...	...	42
2	" " 15 "	...	...	...	30
3	" " 17 "	...	...	...	51
4	" " 18 "	...	...	...	72
1	" " 22 "	...	...	...	22
1	" " 24 "	...	...	...	24
<hr/>					
625					2276

The earth closets at Hamworthy have been emptied by the contractor in a satisfactory manner, and about 200 cesspools in other parts of the Borough have been emptied; those at the new property at Sterte require frequent attention. A system of sewerage is badly wanted for this part of the district.

County of Dorset table relating to number of visits of Inspection, &c., during the year :—

No. of complaints received during the year	...	...	70
No. of inspections of houses, premises, &c.	...	...	2590

Results of Inspections :—

Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses and premises	247
Houses, premises, &c., cleaned, repaired, white-washed, &c.	10
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	88

House Drains :—

New provided	...	...	...	25
Repaired, cleaned, trapped, &c.	...	...	...	120
Privies and W.C.'s :—				
New provided	...	...	...	6
Repaired, &c.	...	...	...	10
Supplied with water	...	...	...	17
Water supplies provided	...	...	...	9

Miscellaneous :—

Removal of accumulations of manure and other refuse	...	10
Animals removed, being improperly kept ...	...	1
Cases of overcrowding	...	5
No. of lodging houses registered	...	4
Legal proceedings (summonses)	...	3
Samples of food taken for analysis	...	95
Inspections to registered premises	...	472

I am, yours obediently,

R. SMITH, A.R.S.I.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

To the Poole Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my fourth Annual Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1906.

I have much pleasure in again recording the fact that no case of infectious disease has been notified amongst the British and Foreign seamen. A case of suspected typhoid fever on a foreign ship was reported to me. I visited the ship and found the man suffering from influenza.

I have received particulars from Port Medical Officers of Health (chiefly Southampton) of passengers and sailors discharged from ships which have had infectious cases on board. These persons have been visited and enquiries as to their health made.

Two deaths were registered as having occurred in the waters of Poole Harbour, viz., man, 55 years, found drowned in Poole Harbour, but no evidence to show how the body came there (inquest); and boy, 14 years, accidentally drowned whilst bathing in the waters of Poole Harbour (inquest).

The inspection of vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs officials has been made.

The number of the vessels inspected by the Sanitary officials was 161 (41 more than in 1905), and were thus classed :—

Clean	...	103	British	34	Foreign
Fair	...	18	„	6	„

No serious defects were found. Several complaints, *re* cleanliness and ventilation, were remedied without written notice.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CARRINGTON, D.P.H.,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	No. of Cases Notified in the whole District.					Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.			
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.				Poole.	Park- stone.	Long- fleet.	Ham- worthy.	Brank- some.	Poole.	Park- stone.	Long- fleet.	Brank- some.
		1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65									
Diphtheria ..	33	10	18	3	2	5	8	1	..	19	..	5	..	14
Erysipelas ..	19	1	3	5	9	7	2	8	1	1	..	1	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	27	7	16	4	..	4	5	3	..	15	1	4	..	12
Enteric fever ..	27	..	7	7	13	20	2	2	1	2	11	2	2	..
TOTAL ..	106	18	44	19	24	36	17	14	2	37	12	12	2	26

Six Typhoid cases were admitted to Cornelia Hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS SITUATE AT BAITER AND ALDERNEY.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1906,

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.						Deaths in Localities at all ages.							
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Hamworthy	Branksome	Isolation Hospital	Poole Harbour
Measles	14	7	7	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	1	5	...	...
Whooping Cough	8	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	6	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	9	...	4	5	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	10	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	5	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic diseases	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	41	2	...	2	8	25	4	9	13	4	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular diseases	13	3	6	2	1	18	...	5	2	1	1	3	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	56	...	2	...	...	6	18	8	11	3	...	8	...	...
Bronchitis	38	12	...	...	...	12	17	10	11	3	...	10	...	...
Pneumonia	22	4	...	1	3	2	2	1	6	2	2	6	...	...
Pleurisy	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	11	1	1	1	...	5	3	2	...	4	1	4	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
Veneral diseases	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	24	24	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	4	2	9	...	...
Heart diseases	38	1	...	1	1	9	26	7	12	5	...	13	...	...
Accidents	10	2	2	...	...	4	2	2	1	1	...	2	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Inquests	10	1	...	1	1	6	1	3	3	...	...	2	...	...
All other causes	176	41	11	4	8	37	75	43	40	14	5	46	...	28
All causes	485	111	40	17	24	137	153	113	112	45	14	142	2	55

TABLE VI.

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901

IN CONNECTION WITH

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES & WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

No. of Inspections of Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) and Workplaces	..	..	..	332
No. of Written Notices	..	..	..	14

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

					No. found.	No. remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	7	7
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	2	2
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..	3	3
Other nuisances	..	..	..	..	2	2

3.—HOME WORK.

Making Wearing Apparel—No. of Lists received from Employers				11
„ „ „ No. of Out-workers	..	..		50
No. of Addresses of Out-workers received from other Councils				25
No. of Inspections of Out-workers' premises	..	..		15

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

No. of Workshops on the Register at the end of the year	..	246
„ „ (Domestic)	..	79
No. of Bakehouses on the Register at the end of the year	..	41
Total number of Workshops on Register	..	366

5 —OTHER MATTERS.*Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—*

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	20
Notified by H.M. Inspector (under Public Health Act)	9